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Library Assistants' Association.

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No. 66.

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N.B.—See also "Greater London," by E. Walford, M.A., F.S.A. (page 360); "Methods of Social Reform," by Prof. W. Stanley Jevons, M.A., F.R.S., LL.D.; "Public Libraries," by T. Greenwood, F.R.G.S.; &c., &c.

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The Library Assistant:

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Published Monthly.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Eighth Annual Meeting will be held, by kind permission of Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister, F.S.A., in the North Room, 20, Hanover Square, W., on **Wednesday, June 3rd**, at 8 p.m., and it is hoped that delegates from the N.W. Branch will be present.

The Report of the Committee and Balance Sheet will be submitted; the Officers and Committee for the ensuing year will be elected; and any business, of which notice has been given, will be considered.

All nominations received will be found on the Ballot Paper (enclosed herewith to all members qualified to vote), and these papers will be opened and counted on the evening of the meeting, at 7 p.m.

Members are earnestly requested to be present, and subscribers to the Journal are cordially invited to attend.

THE VISIT TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

The May Meeting took the form of a visit to our great National Library, on the 13th ult., and was an unqualified success, about seventy members and friends being present. Our party gathered punctually on the steps at 3 p.m., and was met by Mr. W. R. Wilson, who conducted us through the Grenville Library, pointing out notable manuscripts on the way, to the King's Library, where we were met by Mr. G. K. Fortescue, Keeper of Printed Books. He extended to us a few words of cordial welcome, and then proceeded to remark upon the books exhibited in the cases, which illustrated the development of printing from the magnificent 42-line Gutenberg Bible, of 1455, down to some latter-day productions. Here, too, was pointed out the new method of storing postage stamps, and also Mr. Cyril Davenport gave some information concerning the historical bookbindings shewn at the far end of the Library. The Cataloguing Room was next visited, and the mysteries of the "B.M." system were explained to the curious, who learned, incidentally, that the printed catalogue contained upwards of

four and a half million entries! The Music and old Reading Rooms were then traversed, until the Binding Room was reached. Mr. Davenport explained the various methods employed, and, in response to an enquiry, said that morocco, buckram and cloth were the principal stuffs used for their bindings. He recommended morocco beyond all other leathers for durability and service. Leaving this department, the main Reading Room was reached, with its dome, second in diameter only to the Pantheon at Rome, which is two feet wider! The immensity of the place can be felt better than described. At the tables accommodation is provided for 460 readers, and at times, especially on Saturday afternoons, every one of these is occupied, and there are numbers of people waiting. The Iron Library was next inspected, and its sliding book stacks explained, and the Newspaper Room, where thousands of defunct and living journals are filed, was visited.

This brief survey of the wonders of the Libraries occupied nearly two hours, and as we had been on the move almost all the time, our friends who were absent will gain some idea of the extent of the place. Here our worthy guide, Mr. Fortescue, took leave of us, after mentioning several items in the other parts of the Museum which were of more than ordinary interest. Mr. Rees voiced the thanks of the Association for Mr. Fortescue's kindness, and the pains he had taken to explain things, as well as for his permission in allowing the visit. He also included his colleagues who had done much towards the success of the occasion. Mr. Fortescue having briefly replied, the gathering broke up.

At this meeting Messrs. Lewin (Woolwich) and Poulter (Stepney) were elected to audit the year's accounts.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Kingston-on-Thames.—The new Public Library, towards which Mr. Carnegie contributed £2,000, was opened by that gentleman on May 11th. Part of the proceedings consisted of presenting Mr. Carnegie with the Freedom of the Borough. Some interesting speeches were made, amongst which was one by Professor McNeile Dixon, in reply to the toast of "The Library Association." Under the superintendence of Mr. Benjamin Carter (Librarian), the library books, which number about 10,000 in the lending department, and between 2,000 and 3,000 in the reference department, have been transferred from Clattern House to the new premises, which opened to the public on Monday, May 18th. The open access system will be employed as heretofore.

Since writing the preceding note, news has reached us that Mr. Carnegie has increased his gift by £6,400, so that the new building was opened free from debt.

Plaistow.—On the afternoon of May 9th, Mr. Andrew Carnegie visited South West Ham to open a new Free Library, presented to Plaistow by Mr. Passmore Edwards. Mr. Carnegie, in the course of his speech, remarked that he found himself in the delightful position of opening a public library, to which he had not contributed a penny. He was persuaded that the pursuit of wealth, and the estimate in which wealth was held, were to occupy men's thoughts less and less as they became more advanced. Mr. Passmore Edwards was the leading and true disciple of the Gospel of Wealth, which holds the duty of the rich to be to live simply, to scorn delights, and give for the service of their fellow-men. Mr. Carnegie said it was an additional pleasure to him to open a library in this district, because it was a district not of the rich and noble, but of the workers and the poor, and this was where a library was most needed. The republic of letters knew nothing of heredity or of wealth. Votes of thanks were accorded to Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Passmore Edwards. An interesting souvenir of the opening was issued.

STUDY CIRCLE.

With the reports upon the answers to the March and April questions, our work for the session comes to an end. Although the extent of this Circle has been for some months a diminishing quantity, and although it never at any time attained the proportions we wished for, or even expected, we do not feel disappointed with the results achieved. Owing to the many demands upon the space of our little journal, we cannot even attempt to give a critical report upon the session as a whole.

Benedick. (13). 18. Good. Ruskin is better at 292. Crocker should be 621·3; Cox is 537·8, but perhaps the confusion is a clerical error.

(14). 16. Ribot is wrong under Medicine. Ruskin should appear under Mythology.

Breton. (13). 13. Confuses the two dynamo books. Stephen wrong. Ball, Ribot, and Bardsley not carried far enough.

(14). 12. Travel is no proper heading for Grimwood, neither is a title entry required. Bardsley should appear under "Names," not "English."

Constantia. (11). 15. Presents no especial point for criticism save in the undue length of sentences and awkwardness of the idiom.

(12). 14. Nibbles at the subject; gives neither description nor explanation.

(13). 17. Confuses the dynamo books. Ribot should be carried to '8.

(14). 19. Very good.

Index. (11). 16. This "is divided into ten classes numbered one to nine." A painstaking attempt.

(13). 9. Has attempted too much, seven books quite wrong, and two others insufficient,

- (14). 4. Question misunderstood. We wanted the headings under which each book should be found in a dictionary catalogue; you give the main divisions for a classified catalogue.
- Nil Desperandum.* (11). 10. Fair, but does not strictly answer the question. Spelling should be closely watched.
- (12). 8. Information given upon several subjects, but nothing of consequence upon the subject set.
- (13). 13. Fairly good. Confuses the dynamo books. Ribot can be carried further. Watson not good.
- (14). 9. Subjects should seldom be indexed under descriptive adjectives. Title entries are only necessary when the subject is not clearly conveyed.
- Papyrus.* (11). 15. Only the ordinary obvious features given. We would prefer criticism to quotation from text-books.
- (12). 14. Insufficient. That book No. 201 should be placed next to book No. 200 was hardly worth the saying; we wanted a method of dealing with additions when the space originally allotted to any one class became filled.
- (13). 17. Good, but would have been better without so many alternative answers and signs of doubt.
- (14). 17. Good.
- Retwal.* (11). 17. A very fair answer, but might have been fuller with advantage.
- (12). 15. Too theoretical. Fb 69fe, etc., is more likely to confuse than to simplify a system.
- (13). 17. Good. Ball is better at 523. Stephen should be 171.5.
- (14). 19. Very good.

The total number of marks obtainable was 280. *Retwal* is to be congratulated upon his very creditable score of 226. *Papyrus* comes second with 204, and *Constantia* is a very good third with 201. A prize value twenty shillings has been awarded to *Retwal*, and prizes value ten shillings each to *Papyrus* and *Constantia*.

A student writes:—"I feel I cannot allow the opportunity to go by without expressing to you and your colleagues my sincere thanks for the kindness and trouble you have taken during the session in the correction and adjudication of the papers. Although some of the questions have demanded a sacrifice of time and a fair amount of care and thought, and your criticism has been rather severe, the experience gained and knowledge acquired in the preparation of the answers, does, in my opinion, more than compensate for the time expended. I may also say that, while studying for the Professional Examination in Library Management held last January, the Study Circle was of great assistance to me, and contributed to my success at that Examination."

APPOINTMENTS.

*ROBERTSON, Mr. R., Assistant at the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, to be Librarian of the Elder Library, Govan.

HATCHER, Mr. A., Junior Assistant at the Leyton Public Library, to be Junior Assistant at the Central Library, West Ham.

* Member of the Library Assistants' Association.

NEW MEMBERS.

Junior.—Messrs. EDWARD HIGGINSON and F. FIELD HINDLE, Preston.

LITERATURE FOR THE BLIND AND THE PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

BY GEORGE E. ROEBUCK.

Whatever measures other Associations may have taken it is a fact that the L.A.A. has not until this evening devoted its monthly discussion to this topic, and I am honoured by the permission to lay before your notice a few items of interest regarding the movement, which is slowly, but surely, worming its way within the radius of our professional labours. That it is doing so is, one knows, liable to a challenge, but I hope to prove that my assertion is not a bald one, and also that more of the said movement may be expected in the near future. In order to deal systematically with the subject, I will divide it into three main sections, viz.:—

- (1) The Blind themselves.
- (2) Literature for the Blind and its production.
- (3) The work of Public Libraries in connection with the Blind.

The first section suggested may be considered somewhat out of place in this paper, but I think it necessary because no one can be expected to have any interest in a subject which they do not understand, and we know that enthusiasm, which alone makes a success of any movement, is but born of excessive interest.

Only those who come in contact with the blind realize their nature and circumstances, therefore I ask your kind attention to the introductory section.

THE BLIND THEMSELVES.

One interesting feature concerning the blind is that there are few sources from which one can obtain any idea of their numerical strength. The Census of 1891 gave a return of 31,605 blind as resident in the United Kingdom, of whom some 7,000 were in institutions founded for various purposes. Many persons give approximate figures, of which the most generally accepted is that there is one blind person per thousand head of the total population. Few blind are seen in our streets, but they are the bolder spirits (generally blind from birth) who tread the pavements, judging the proximity of danger by the location of sounds, and their whereabouts through a process of numerical counts. But a far greater number of the blind are confined to their homes unable thus to venture without sighted guidance. For the better understanding of my remarks I would suggest the division of the blind into two groups, viz.:—Those persons who have been blind from birth; and the previously-sighted blind, who become afflicted after years of sight and understanding. The latter section have a distinct advantage over the persons blind from birth; they have read and have seen things, and can in their later affliction call back to memory much which they read or saw. One of our borrowers at Stepney (who became blind at the age of 21) can repeat almost any act, scene or play of Shakespeare without the least preparation; and this he remembers at 60 years of age, ever since the onset of his affliction. The early blind, or persons blind from birth, have not had these opportunities, understanding only from reading or conversation, and sometimes, even then, but imperfectly. As regards the reading and writing of the blind, this depends upon, and is entirely regulated by the sense of touch. This faculty is most acute in the early blind, but it is difficult to acquire it after years. Nevertheless, it comes in a sense of compensation as soon as blindness claims its victim. One person writes to another by means of the board and frame, but a good number of blind persons use an ordinary typewriter with great exactitude. Arithmetic and mathematical calculations are worked out by means of the multi-arrangement of leads in a zinc tray.

The literature available for the use of the blind is very limited at most, but more opportunities are given to these readers at a Public Library, because in the majority of other cases the blind obtain their books at the discretion of a Superintendent of an Instruction Centre or some other Institution, the objects of which are not the same as those of our Public Libraries. By this means a good deal of genuine reading matter is lost sight of, being considered secular.

Here are a few headings from the catalogue of an embossing agency which has lately learned a little more broad-mindedness; instances of the matter, which, until quite recently, was considered suitable to console, enlighten, and amuse our afflicted brothers and sisters:—*Poetry*.—Bull's Hymns, 3 vols. (Vol. 1 from the Olney Hymns, vols. 2 and 3 from various collections); Hymns on Resignation, &c.; Keble's Christian Year (selections from); Starless Crown, &c.; The Old, Old Story. *Religious Works*.—Grace and Truth under Twelve Aspects, in 5 vols.; Texts of Consolation; Sunbeams for Human Hearts; The Lowest Place; Prayers and Promises; Remarkable Answers to Prayer, in 24 parts or 6 vols.; *Tales and Anecdotes*.—Praying Willys; Highland Kitchenmaid; Dying Robber; The Patchwork Quilt; Sam, the Converted Sailor; There is Room for You; Pious Teacher; Blind Irishman; The Publican's Joint. *Scientific and General Works*.—Wonders of Light; Wonders of Coal; Wonders of the Magnet; Wonders of Digestion, (1 vol.). *Music*.—A Church Service; Hold the Fort; Longing; The Parting Hour.

This sort of thing is the natural outcome of the direction of the embossing presses by charity organisations, unopposed by an outer demand. These societies have issued very little from their presses, but we must not forget that the objects of such bodies are to ameliorate the condition of the blind, and as the provision of literature is but one (and perhaps the most costly) branch of their work, we must give full measure of credit for the little. Each of the several societies establish Centres in various parts of London and the larger provincial towns, where the blind meet (say) twice a week for social intercourse, and here receive slight pecuniary assistance, and instruction in constructive fine art.

Within the last 20 years the School Boards have established, at such schools as it is necessary, a special class for blind children, who are taught by a blind instructor. The compulsion clause of the Act applies to blind children the same as to the sighted. Scholarships are also instituted by means of which a clever blind student may proceed to the Royal Normal Colleges for the Blind, where a practical education is received, and the students eventually find themselves earning their livings, or partially so, by pianoforte tuning, music, mat, brush or shoe making, or one of the other branches of handiwork, by means of which the blind are taught to maintain themselves. How the blind managed prior to 1784, when the first school of instruction was founded, in Paris, I cannot imagine, but, perhaps they lived their days in hospitals or asylums founded for them, the first of which was established in the year 1260, by Louis IX, for the reception of soldiers who lost their sight during the Crusades. This short introduction brings us to the more practical portion of this paper.

LITERATURE FOR THE BLIND, AND ITS PRODUCTION.

As I have shown, the literature embossed is but scant in quantity, and mostly of an exceedingly religious or moral quality. Such as has been embossed is set up mainly in accordance with the four most prominent styles which are known as the "Moon," "Braille," "Alston," and "Lucas" types, but several other systems have been introduced from time to time. In 1873, Dr. Moon published a book entitled "Light for the Blind," from which we learn that the earliest authentic record of an attempt to provide reading for the blind is that of the invention of a

Spaniard, Francesco Lucas, who, in the 16th century, engraved characters on wooden blocks. Rampezzetto made a similar attempt in 1575, but engraved upon a single board the size of a page, instead of using moveable letters. Both of these attempts failed, owing to the letters being sunk below the surface of the wood, instead of appearing in relief. Pierre Moreau, well known to the student of typography, in the first place tried his hand at relief printing, and in 1640 cast moveable leaden type for the use of the blind. He had the practical idea, but financial difficulties compelled him to relinquish his schemes, and to apply his genius to the broader field of typography, wherein he gained no mean prominence. For some time after Moreau's discontinuance, little was done to advance the movement, and not until we arrive at the experiments of the blind man, Du Puisieux, do we find any further mechanical attempt recorded. Du Puisieux used wooden letters at first, but later called in the services of a friendly pewterer, who cast the letters in metal. This proved a failure, as the castings were rough to the touch, and almost, if not entirely, useless. One marked distinction of this latest attempt was the decided reduction in the size of the letters used. In 1783 the Philanthropic Society of Paris ordered punches and matrices for a new type for the use of the blind, all expenses being defrayed by Mons. De l'Etang. These letters, though smaller than those of Du Puisieux, were still too large for the touch, so smaller types were produced. This later set of types was cast at the foundry of Mons. Vafard, and consisted of large and small italics. In 1817 the large and small Roman character succeeded the Italic form. Concurrently with these experiments, attempts were being made in Germany. Weissembourg, a resident in Mannheim, who lost his sight at the age of 7 years, was accustomed to cut letters from pieces of cardboard, and, accidentally, so to speak, the idea of pricking outline maps in cardboard appealed to him. He found his idea a good one, so successful indeed, that, by means of these maps, he succeeded in teaching geography to Mdlle. Paradis. This lady in time visited Paris, and conveyed the idea to Professor Valentine Hüay, who used it to great advantage. Professor Hüay founded the first school for the education of the blind at Paris in 1784, and it was whilst acting as its Director that he had the good fortune to become acquainted with Weissembourg's cardboard method, from which the idea of embossing paper sheets was easily taken.

In 1786 Professor Hüay brought forward his system of printing on paper, letters recognisable to the touch from flat movable types. Hüay's alphabet was of the italic form. The Academy of Sciences reported in favour of the invention, and exhibitions of embossed work took place before Louis XVI.

No further movement seems to have been made until 1826, when Dr. William Gall, of Edinburgh, improved upon Hüay's system by employing one alphabet instead of the two—capitals and smalls—used by the Professor, and, further, by excluding curves and circles and substituting straight lines and angles. Dr. Gall must be regarded as the principal promoter of the art in Britain. He altered his original type to a modified Roman character, which in the course of subsequent simplification attained resemblance to some of the older characters, such as Punic and Greek. Dr. Gall published in 1827 the first book embossed in Great Britain, followed by several further outputs, amongst others being "The Gospel according to Saint John," which was the first book of the Bible printed for the Blind. Later on Dr. Gall again modified his alphabet and embossed most of the New Testament. Thus far had the movement proceeded when, in 1832, the Society of Arts in Scotland offered their Gold Medal for the best suggestion as to an alphabet and printing system for the use of the Blind. Dr. Fry had the honour to receive the reward, but Dr. Fry's

system cannot have been in much favour, for we find in 1837, only five years later, that Mr. Alston, of Glasgow, improved upon Fry's types, making the letters sharper and more tangible. In 1848 the whole Bible was embossed at Glasgow, but in the year previous Dr. Moon introduced *his* famous system. Dr. Moon's alphabet consists of a simplification of common capital forms, six of the Roman characters remain unaltered, two others have parts left out (as the cross-piece in the "A" and the side-piece in the "D"), and the remainder are simple stroke or circle forms, words being embossed at full length.

So far we have considered the progress of types which have been based upon the forms of Roman and Italic characters, but a series of more complicated systems came to be used about the same period.

Mr. M. T. Lucas, a shorthand writer, of Bristol, in 1858 introduced a system which professed to be to a blind person what stenography was to the sighted. He based his suggestion upon Byrom's system of shorthand, the alphabet consisting of 36 characters, 12 of which were used for double letters. Not only were all letters omitted which were not necessary to sound, but also in many cases single characters stood for words, as "B" for "by" and "M" for "me." The advantages claimed were the saving of type, paper, and labour in printing. Results, however, proved to the reverse, for more space was required than as if the words had been written at full length in Roman capitals, whilst the system was difficult and lent itself to complication. Frere introduced types for a system which, like the Lucas, was stenographic, being based upon Gurney's shorthand system, but it differed from the latter, being phonetic. Characters here represented *sounds* instead of letters, and each word was made up according to its pronunciation. There were 32 characters, and vowel sounds (five long and five short) were represented by single dots placed in ten different positions.

We have now dealt with the stenographic systems, and before passing to the final representation it is only fair to mention the most ingenious arrangement of Messrs. David Macbeath and Robert Milne, two blind inmates of the Edinburgh Asylum for the Blind, who concocted a system of representing letters by a variety of forms of knots tied upon a piece of cord. But this, of course, was not embossing.

One system, the Braille, and a modification thereof, the Carton, remain to be described. Professor Louis Braille, a pupil at the Institute founded by Hüy, introduced in 1832 the scheme which is now most universally in practice.

It is quite a relief to consider Braille's idea, because it came clean and clear from the mind of its inventor, no common character or system of shorthand leading to its conception. Braille's alphabet consists of a combination of six or less dots, severally arranged, and further combinations represent the prefixes, affixes, and generally accepted contractions.

Carton altered Braille's scheme, using the general idea, but arranging the dots more in conformity with the shapes of the Roman letters.

I have now described the evolution of the Blind Man's A B C, but it must be clearly understood that few of the systems mentioned are in active use to-day. Carton's is used in the States, but finds little favour amongst the British Blind; the systems of Gall, Alston, Lucas, and Frere find support from isolated enthusiasts, but the Moon and Braille systems are the only styles which seem to have come to stay. As a proof of this I should mention that I have tested the utility of the "actual character" systems (as Gall and Alston) by asking several of our Blind to read the raised word on a Bovril bottle, and find that they have much difficulty in doing so.

As for the stenographics, a lady asked me to provide her with the names and addresses of the Lucas readers amongst the East London Blind in order that she might send presentation copies of her books in that type. I was only able to discover four after diligent search. No! It lies between the Braille and Moon systems. The rising generation are being accustomed to the Braille, but Moon will always be required for the aged readers; the bold characters being more tangible to the decaying sense of touch than the Braille system of closely arranged dots. Braille claims advantages over the Moon inasmuch as by its use one person can write to another without the assistance of machinery, and, further, each blind person can transcribe into Braille for future reference such items as a sighted person makes a pencil-note of. Moon's work must be embossed by plates with machine power, and therefore it cannot be used for ordinary purposes other than machine production. Another great factor in favour of the Braille system is the question of space taken up in embossing. The economy of the Braille system is best illustrated by comparison between works from the two presses; and a further economy is now made possible by the use of the "interpointed" Braille, whereby only 75 per cent. of the paper is used that would be necessary for "interlined" Braille.

The third and most interesting section of this paper deals with the

PUBLIC LIBRARY WORK IN CONNECTION WITH THE BLIND,

and, as I openly admit my advocacy of the movement, it is expected that some reasons should be presented in support of my standing.

Libraries for the Blind have for some years been established at Ashton-under-Lyne, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Middlesborough, Norwich, Nottingham, Penzance, Plymouth, Swansea, Wick, and other towns, and the continuance of these special sections is proof that they are appreciated. But our Metropolitan Library Authorities have not until recently taken the matter up, and it is interesting to note that London's pioneer movements emanate from the East End. The Borough of Poplar has a small collection of books in Braille, and the Council of the sister-borough of Stepney have taken great interest and an active part in furthering the movement.

But the provision of embossed literature is to receive much more attention in the future; there is a great difference between buying what is to be purchased, and demanding works as yet not published. So far such libraries as are established have purchased, or received donations of such embossed literature as was available, the best, but poor compared with what it might be. But why cannot we purchase the late productions, the up-to-date matter which is the privilege of the sighted; the standard works which our libraries include in their stocks? The reason is as follows:—To procure a book in Braille (which we will assume to be the type mostly in demand) you must either employ a blind person to write it at a cost of 2d. per sheet or purchase a stereotyped copy. An ordinary 6s. novel if hand-written would cost about £4 to set up, whereas if it were stereotyped the same might be obtainable for 10s. or 12s. Now the stereotyping is a costly undertaking for the embossing societies, and one which they will not readily commence without some prospects of return. Therefore they wait a demand and stereotype accordingly. What is the consequence? The average channels through which demands are largely advanced are likely to urge for the stereotyping of some works which, beyond a doubt, are good, but perhaps too much so to form the recreation of a class who already have affliction sufficient to make them serious and contemplative. The further establishment of Public Libraries for the Blind will create a demand of a more general nature, and I have it from the most eminent authority that such demands would be met. Further, the objects of a Public Library are to distribute learning—to circulate good,

wholesome reading amongst *all* classes of the local community; so far, however, but few districts have been entirely fair in this respect. Boys and girls, men and women, all are catered for so long as they have their sight, but what of the residents who are not thus blessed? For that class nothing is provided, and apparently it is assumed that nothing should be provided. Leave blind people to their charities, let them continue the grooved reading they have "palmed off" on to them! We go to great ends to study and cater for the tastes of school children, we throw our stocks open to any chance employee, we spend enormous sums annually in perfecting or amassing collections of specific literature—all of which is good and proper—but I think we should do something for our blind, who, in most cases, are old established residents, and often ratepayers. The argument carries its own support. We claim that the work of free book distribution should be entirely in our hands, and I know that when Public Library work with the Blind becomes a generally accepted item of extension work, then the various charity organisations will discontinue their supplies of books to their Instruction Centres, and the borrowers will be compelled to attend their Public Libraries for reading matter. Here they will find a selection of literature more to their liking, and both parties to the contract will receive satisfaction. Our work and aims will in this way be furthered, and we shall be in a position to regulate, or to largely assist in the regulation, of the markets of production.

But what of the cost entailed by the innovation? This question is the first to be brought forward at Committee Meetings. Even now the cost of a nucleus stock of embossed books need not be enormous, and in a few years there need be little difference in the cost of embossed and the ordinary printed book. To form a thoroughly representative stock of embossed books will take years of the future, and all that can be done, as yet, is to collect what there is to be purchased, and to make further demands.

When the Stepney Council undertook to specialize in embossed literature, it was found easier to provide a sum for expenditure on this section, than it was to spend it. You can get blind people to emboss whatever you like for 2d. per sheet, and thus afford employment to the local people,—but —this is a far too costly method of procedure. The books which you include in stock must be stereotyped (at an average cost of 4s. 6d. per volume), because books will need replacing in time, and the expense of replacing works at from £5 to £8 would soon tend to check the progress of the movement.

It is, perhaps, advisable that I should clearly explain the terms "hand-written" and "stereo-typed." By the first term we understand matter that is set up by hand on a writing frame, which means that only one copy of the work is embossed at a time. The second term applies, as in printing, to work printed, or rather embossed, from a series of metal plates, each plate representing one page, from which the matter can be duplicated hundreds of times over, by machine power.

Agreed, then, that stereotyped books are to be purchased, it is astonishing how little there is to buy, and I can safely assert that, at the present state of affairs, £30 will purchase all the stereotyped matter (excluding music) which the average Librarian would care to offer to his readers. But the Librarian need not stop here if he is enterprising. Throughout the kingdom there are numbers of ladies and gentlemen of independent means, who make a hobby of Braille work, and, having time at their disposal, are diligent workers on behalf of the Blind. These generous persons, having embossed a work, are confronted by a (to them) great difficulty—How is the work embossed to reach the needy Blind? Truly, there are the Societies to present work to, but a

Public Library in a necessary locality is just the institution they look for! An appeal through a popular Press medium will bring voluntary offers by the score. At least, so we find it, for our Library at Stepney is constantly being enriched by many such kindnesses. For us the unembossed works of Dickens are being set up in Shropshire; the works of W. W. Jacobs are being embossed in Hampshire; the Arthurian legends arrive (in parts) weekly from Essex and Norfolk; children's literature is occasionally to hand from the wives of regimental officers at Simla; whilst these are but a few of many instances.

In three different parts of the Home Counties, Braille Clubs have been formed amongst the wealthier ladies, and we receive their work.

It is true that these donations are not stereotyped, but they cost nothing to acquire, and they are most useful so long as they are readable. Many donors would swamp the libraries with gifts of the "goody-goody" kind, but we need not circulate all we receive, although it is good policy to receive it most thankfully. These remarks should make it plain that the barriers in the way of the formation of a library of embossed literature are not so numerous as appear upon first consideration. Having agreed to provide the local blind with books the question of methods of circulation has to be considered, and the difficulty of this phase of the subject varies according to the ages of the blind residents and the present existing arrangements made for them. My suggestions on this point will be those upon which you may make some contrary remarks, but I simply propose to speak of our methods which experience has proved to be practical. In dealing with the blind it is well to forget their affliction, so to speak, and to treat them on the same lines as sighted borrowers. A blind person likes less than anything to be constantly reminded of the affliction. As for membership, the persons you wish to enrol being blind, it is useless to insert direct notices to them through the newspaper columns, but appeals for co-operation in making the movement known to all the local blind might be inserted to the usual news readers. Two sources of assistance are to hand—the clergy and the superintendent of a class of instruction. These persons can generally supply the names and addresses of all the blind in their areas, and do good work in carrying news to the blind of the library which is being formed for them. As the readers cannot endorse the form of application such must be dispensed with entirely. At Stepney we enrol a borrower who brings a note from a ratepayer, or one of the afore-mentioned sources, stating the name and address of the applicant. This is all that is needed, because a moment's consideration will shew that there is little risk entailed in thus freely circulating books to blind persons, the books meet with careful treatment, are returned well within time, and the necessity of guarantee for payment incurred at any time, which exists when considering ordinary sighted applications, is in these instances much lessened. Having become enrolled, the borrower now wishes to know what embossed books the library possesses, and this is a lengthy matter to attend to unless the Librarian is a Braille operator, and has set up a catalogue in Braille for his readers. A catalogue thus embossed must be a mere list under catchword and author, as the blind reader will soon lose all grasp of the meaning of a page indented or otherwise technically treated.

With such a list at hand the choice is soon made, and the issue can be recorded in the usual manner. But that section of the blind who cannot get about—the aged and the nervous blind—has to be considered, and it is quite out of the question to expect assistants to take books to these persons' homes, the willing co-operation of district visitors and the clergy should be cultivated. The Home Teaching Society's blind instructors dis-

tribute a good deal of our literature (principally the Moon works) among the aged and invalid. By such means as these much difficulty is overcome.

Before proceeding further permit me to emphasize the desirability of the Librarian and his deputy becoming acquainted with Braille. It is quite simple to learn, and indispensable where embossed communications come through the post and must be read and answered as sent. Should anyone care to learn the system they can procure a supply of paper and all implements, together with a complete book of instructions, from the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, W., for 7s. 6d.

But to resume, one cross theory to that which I have advocated has been advanced, viz.:—that it is better to pay so much a year for periodical loan of books from the Societies, so as to be constantly replacing your stock by new batches. This is an excellent idea in provincial towns where the blind population is not numerous enough to justify the establishment of a permanent library section, but so far as London is concerned it is good only so far as the Societies' books go. I have pointed out that the books stereotyped are few, and therefore in a short time your new batch of borrowed books will be the same as you have had some time before, and should you continue re-using in this manner you will be more out of pocket than by buying outright, in which case you possess the books and can do what you like with them. Of course the same argument applies to a collection of books permanently acquired, for they will some time become read perhaps. Let us hope so. Then what will follow? Although the purpose of this paper is not to point anticipations, I think it likely that in a few years, when all the libraries of embossed books necessary for the London areas are established, that some arrangement will be made for interchange between localities, or, maybe, the blind readers will be permitted a freer borrowing limit by which to obtain books from other collections than the local one through the medium of their public librarian. Then our stocks will never be stale, and our possibilities will be almost without limit.

Nearing the end of my paper, I wish to conclude with a few words of caution, from which others may benefit by the experiences of pioneer workers. In starting the movement, the greatest care should be taken to discover the possible means of success, for it is plainly evident that *too many* libraries for the blind can be established. In the provinces the wisdom of the departure must be decided by the number of local blind, but in London the *only* guide to success is the existence or non-existence of a Centre of Instruction in the particular locality. With such a Centre in his area, the Librarian may proceed with confidence, but also with energy—without such a Centre it is fatal to take any steps to develop the movement, resulting, as it must, in damaging the reputation of the officer responsible for its inception, and also checking the movement which he has endeavoured to further.

Finally, I wish to remark that there may be several libraries where, unknown to me, work is being done in connection with the blind, and which I have not mentioned. This is owing to the fact that I have not circularised our institutions for the purpose of gleanings statistical and other returns, with which to fatten my humble paper, preferring, rather, that comment should be freely given through the medium of our Journal.

What I have said, I know to be perfectly correct, and it pleases me to think that the revival of this movement lies within the province of the public librarian: it will enable him, whilst doing his duty and furthering the institution under his direction, to create or restore a feeling of citizenship amongst, and lead to municipal attention to, a most deserving section of the community.

April 22nd, 1903.

LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT.

To be presented at the Eighth Annual Meeting in the North Room, 20 Hanover Square, W., on Wednesday, June 3rd, 1903.

The Committee begs to submit the Eighth Annual Report on the work of the L.A.A., and has pleasure in reporting another year of steady progress.

The Seventh Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 18th, 1902, at 20, Hanover Square, by kind invitation of Mr. MacAlister. For the third year, Mr. Evan G. Rees was thereat elected Chairman of the Association; Mr. W. G. Chambers was re-elected Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. J. Radcliffe was elected Hon. Secretary. The result of the ballot for seats upon the Committee for the ensuing session was declared. The resolution of a Special Meeting held on December 11th, 1902, altering the Annual Meeting from the summer to the winter session was rescinded upon the motion of Mr. Chambers, seconded by Mr. R. B. Wood.

A motion standing to the name of Mr. Pocock, that reports of Committee proceedings be published in the journal, was defeated.

The opening meeting of the Session was held at the London School of Economics, Clare Market, on Wednesday, October 8th, 1902, Mr. L. Inkster presiding. Mr. Henry D. Roberts addressed a large gathering on "The Technical Education of Library Assistants." This address had special bearing upon the course of classes in Library Administration which the Library Association subsequently held. At this meeting the election took place to fill a vacancy upon the Committee caused by Mr. Soper's resignation, and Mr. W. B. Thorne was duly elected.

The ordinary meetings have been held from October until May, and the Committee is extremely grateful to the various gentlemen who have addressed, or presided at the meetings. Special mention should be made of the kindness of Sir E. Maunde Thompson, K.C.B., D.C.L., for permission to visit the Libraries of the British Museum, and of the able manner in which our party was conducted by Mr. G. K. Fortescue, Keeper of the Printed Books, and his staff.

The Committee is most pleased to note another year of good work by the N.W. Branch, whose sessional programme appears on page 266. The papers read have been of a practical character, and the Committee heartily congratulates the Branch upon the outcome of its year's endeavour.

It is the desire of the Committee to extend the system of Branches, and proposals to that end will be gladly received. It is to be regretted that the movement to establish a Midlands Branch in the Birmingham district fell through, but the Committee intends to make a further effort later and hopes for better support.

In November the Fifth Annual Dinner was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, and was a decided success. In February a Bohemian Concert was arranged, the results of which left nothing to be desired. It is pleasing to note that both social gatherings were financially successful.

The Study Circle, started in 1900 by the efforts of Mr. J. Wilson Brown, has been continued during the winter months upon a slightly different basis. Instead of setting courses of study from text books, questions of a miscellaneous character, upon the subject of "Library Management" in general have been set month by month, and comments upon the answers received have been printed in the Journal. The object was to test the knowledge gathered from the practical experience of the students, and to stimulate thought upon, and preparation of, this subject, with a view to the Professional Examination of the Library Association. A report upon the work of the session appears on page 261. The Committee is more than ever convinced that a comprehensive scheme of correspondence classes is a necessity to the proper technical education of library assistants and realize that any effort of the L.A.A. must be altogether inadequate, and hopes that the work will be taken in hand by the Library Association.

The Hon. Librarian reports that during the year ended 30th April, 1903, twelve volumes and a number of library reports and bulletins were added to the library. The number of volumes now stands at 300. No ordinary member of the Association has presented a volume, other than reports and catalogues, for several years, and the committee would like to remind members that no funds are available for the purchase of books, and that if each member presented one volume, it would materially benefit the library. Those who are not able to give, might, with little trouble, use their influence to obtain books which have been put aside upon the completion of studies, but which are eagerly desired by our less fortunate members. Donations will be acknowledged in the Journal, and may be sent to Mr. A. H. Carter, 115, St. Martin's Lane, W.C. The catalogue issued with the October and November (1901) "Library Assistant" contains nearly all the books in the library, and additions since that date have been regularly recorded in the Journal. Cutter's Expansive Classification has been added, as

issued, through the kindness of Miss M. S. R. James. The number of volumes issued was 34.

In October, owing to his appointment as City Librarian of Exeter, the Committee lost the able services of Mr. H. Tapley Soper, whose editing of the "Library Assistant" did much to increase the usefulness of our medium. Mr. W. B. Thorne undertook to carry on the office, and his services speak for themselves.

In February, with regret, we accepted the resignation of Mr. J. Radcliffe, whose opportunities for carrying on the office of Hon. Secretary were curtailed, and Mr. G. E. Roebuck again agreed to undertake the office.

The Association now numbers 245 members, of whom 136 are Senior, 98 Junior, and 11 Honorary Members, being a net increase of 15 compared with last year. Sixty-three of these members are accredited to the North-Western Branch. A complete list is appended.

The Financial condition is satisfactory and the Committee desire to offer its thanks to the following gentlemen who have given donations during the year, viz.:—Mr. A. Cotgreave, £2; Mr. B. L. Dyer, £3 3s.; Mr. Hy. Ogle, 10s. 6d.; "M.B.R.," £3; Mr. F. Meaden Roberts, 5s. The donation of Mr. Cotgreave was for the Prize Essay, which bears his name, that of Mr. Dyer was for the Prize Essay Fund, or such other purpose as the Committee may decide to put it, whilst that of "M.B.R." was also for the Prize Essay Fund.

The "Library Assistant" has been published regularly each month, all the papers read before the Association during the past Session have appeared for the most part *in extenso*, and in the May number a paper read before the N.W. Branch was printed.

A scheme is under consideration for increasing the size of the Journal, whereby further space can be allowed for Branch affairs. As this will entail an increased outlay, the Committee hopes for support from members, whom they trust will do a little missionary work in making known the benefits of the Association amongst their fellows who have not already joined. With a larger income a larger Journal can be produced, which undoubtedly, would prove of advantage to every assistant interested in his profession.

In September Mr. E. G. Rees and Mr. R. B. Wood were elected by the Council of the Library Association upon its Education Committee, as representing the L.A.A. Your Committee desires to express its thanks to the Library Association for this appreciation. We have every reason to hope that the Education Committee, through its open-minded consideration and

energetic treatment of the difficult question of the professional examination and technical education of Library Assistants, will evolve a scheme that will give general satisfaction.

The Committee has to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of copies of "Contents-Subjects Index" from Mr. Cotgreave, and "L.A. Souvenirs" (1898) from Mr. Fortune.

Owing to the difficulty in finding a meeting place which has been experienced lately, the Committee have engaged a room for Ordinary and Committee Meetings at the St. Bride Institute, Bride Lane, E.C.

The Committee begs to acknowledge the kindness of members and others who have from time to time given assistance.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

EVAN G. REES, *Chairman*.

G. E. ROEBUCK, *Hon. Secretary*.

20th May, 1903.

ATTENDANCES OF COMMITTEE.

NAME.	GENERAL COMMITTEE.		SUB-COMMITTEES.		TOTAL.	
	Conc'd	Atten	Conc'd	Atten	Conc'd	Atten
Bradley, C. A.	12	6	7	4	19	10
Bullen, R. F.	12	9	3	2	15	11
Burt, A. G.	12	5	8	4	20	9
Chambers, W. G.... ..	12	9	19	11	31	20
Green, T.	12	6	—	—	12	6
Harris, W. J.	12	9	7	7	19	16
Hatcher, S. A.	12	9	3	2	15	11
Hogg, J. F.	12	8	3	3	15	11
McDouall, W. B.... ..	12	6	7	3	19	9
Parsons, E. H. (resigned Feb. 1903)	8	5	3	3	11	8
Radcliffe, J. (resigned Feb. 1903) ...	8	8	14	11	22	19
Rees, E. G.	12	9	19	15	31	24
Roebuck, G. E. (elected Feb. 1903)	4	4	4	4	8	8
Soper, H. T. (resigned Oct. 1902) ...	3	2	1	1	4	3
Stevenson, R.	12	8	8	5	20	13
Thorne, W. B. (elected Oct. 1902)...	10	9	10	9	20	18
Wood, P. H. (resigned Apl. 1903)...	10	2	7	1	17	3
Wood, R. B.	12	10	19	17	31	27

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1902-3.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
Balance	...	...	£ s. d.	Printing and Stationery	...	...	£ s. d.
Members' Subscriptions	...	...	24 9 4	Prize Essays	...	...	59 0 7
" " N.W. Branch	...	...	32 5 0	Postages	...	...	3 0 0
Advertisement in, and Sale of " Library	...	...	8 18 0	Hire of Room	...	...	17 1 3
Assistant " " "	...	...	33 0 5	Clerical Work	...	...	1 0 0
Donations	...	...	8 18 6	Grant to Entertainment Committee	...	...	1 1 0
				Balance	...	...	25 8 5
£107 11 3				£107 11 3			

ENTERTAINMENT SUB-COMMITTEE, 1902-3.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
...	8	1	0	...	...
By Sale of 46 Dinner Tickets at 3s. 6d.	...	...	To 43 Dinners at 3s.	...	...
Grant from Committee	...	...	" Printing	...	...
Sale of 65 Programmes, at 3d.	...	...	" Postages, &c.	...	...
	...	0	" Hire of Hall (Bohemian Concert)	...	...
	...	16	" Balance	...	...
		3			

Audited and found correct.

P. EVANS LEWIN, } *Auditors.*
H. W. POULTER, }

May 25th, 1903.

W. GEO. CHAMBERS, *Treasurer.*

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS.

EIGHTH SESSION, 1902-3.

LONDON.

Date.	Lecturer.	Paper or Business.	Where Held.
1902			
June 18	Mr. H. D. ROBERTS	Seventh Annual Meeting	20 Hanover Square London School of Economics Anderton's Hotel,
Oct. 8		" Technical Training of Library Assistants "	
Nov. 19		Fifth Annual Dinner	
Dec. 10	Mr. E. G. REES	Discussion on " Issuing Methods "	St. Bride Institute
1903			
Feb. 18	Mr. T. W. GLAZIER	" Anticipated Developments in Library Practice "	West Ham Central S. George, Hanover Square, Shoreditch Central
Mar. 25	Mr. R. B. WOOD	" Bookbinding "	
Apl. 22	Mr. G. E. ROEBUCK	" Literature for the Blind "	
May 13		Visit to British Museum	

N.W. BRANCH.

1902			
Sep. 17	Mr. B. H. MULLEN, M.A.	" Sight indices for a Classified Catalogue "	Peel Park, Salford
Nov. 15	Mr. C. MADELEY	" History and Development of Warrington Museum & Library "	Museum & Library, Warrington
Dec. 17		Annual Meeting	Reference Library, Manchester
1903			
Jan. 14	(Mr. J. D. DICKENS Mr. H. N. KIRK	" The Library Assistant " " Planning of some American Libraries "	Athenæum, Man- chester
Feb. 18	Miss E. F. COXWEN	" Some Fads and Fallacies in Library Work "	
Mar. 25	Mr. F. W. B. HAWORTH	" Educational Basis of the Free Library Movement "	Chetham's Library, Manchester
Apl. 21	Mr. E. G. REES	Discussion upon " The Educa- tional Needs of Library Assistants "	Cent. Lib., Oldham
May 20		Zueblin's " American Municipal Progress "	Reference Library, Manchester
			Blackley Branch, Manchester

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE, 1902-1903.

CHAIRMAN :

^{b d} EVAN G. REES, City of Westminster.

COMMITTEE :

- Baker, A., Chester.
^c Bradley, C. A., Lambeth.
^a Bullen, R. F., Poplar.
^b Burt, A. G., Fulham.
 Cunningham, W., Liverpool.
 Gordon, P. D., Mudie's, Manchester.
 Green, T., Shoreditch.
^c Harris, W. J., Hornsey.
^a Hatcher, S. A., West Ham.
^a Hogg, J. F., Battersea.
^c Macdouall, W. B., Hammersmith.
 MacKenzie, W. M., Aberdeen.
 Montgomery, W. T., Bootle.
 Parsons, E. H., Stepney. (Resigned, February, 1903).
 Quarmby, W., Oldham.
^d Soper, H. T., Stoke Newington.
^b Stevenson, R., Croydon.
 Swann, J. H., Manchester.
^d Thorne, W. B., Poplar.
^c Wood, P. H., Southwark. (Resigned, April, 1903).
^{b d} R. B. Wood, Westminster (*Vice-Chairman*).

HON. SECRETARY :

J. Radcliffe, East Ham. (Resigned February, 1903).
 G. E. Roebuck, Stepney. (Elected February, 1903).

HON. TREASURER :

^{b d} W. Geo. Chambers, Woolwich.

HON. EDITOR :

H. T. Soper, Stoke Newington. (Resigned October, 1902.)
 W. B. Thorne, Poplar. (Elected October, 1902).

HON. LIBRARIAN :

A. H. Carter, City of Westminster.

^a Branches Sub-Committee.
^c Entertainment Sub-Committee.

^b Education Sub-Committee.
^d Journal Sub-Committee.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

SAMUEL J. CLARKE.
 BERTRAM L. DYER.
 RICHARD GARNETT, C.B., LL.D.
 THOMAS GREENWOOD.
 MISS M. S. R. JAMES.

J. Y. W. MACALISTER, F.S.A.
 HENRY OGLE.
 R. A. PEDDIE.
 F. MEADEN ROBERTS.
 H. TAPLEY SPER.

CHARLES WELCH, F.S.A.

ORDINARY MEMBERS.

- *Anderson, A. A. R., Stepney.
 Anderson, G. C., West Ham.
 *Ayton, J. G., Poplar.
 Bacon, S., Stepney.
 Bain, R., Glasgow.
 *Batty, T. W. E., Fulham.
 *Baxter, W. D., *Library of Wynne Baxter*.
 Bayley, D. J., Poplar.
 Beer, F. A. R., West Ham.
 Blackmore, C. F., Stoke Newington.
 Blakely, A. A., Bermondsey.
 Bolton, G. R., Fulham.
 *Bonner, F. H., Croydon.
 Boyd, Miss E. K., Aberdeen.
 *Brace, W., Shoreditch.
 *Bradley, C. A., Lambeth.
 *Brown, J. W., Kimberley.
 *Brown, R. W., Northampton.
 *Buddery, E. E., West Ham.
 *Bullen, R. F., Poplar.
 *Burgoyne, F. J. P., Battersea.
 *Bursill, P. C., Westminster.
 *Burt, A. G., Fulham.
 *Bushnell, F. C., Fulham.
 Cameron, A. E., Croydon.
 Camplin, P. W., Shoreditch.
 *Carter, A. H., Westminster.
 *Carter, W. A., Cripplegate Inst.
 Cashmore, H. M., Birmingham.
 *Chambers, W. G., Woolwich.
 Chivers, P. W., Croydon.
 *Clayton, C. E. A., Roy. Med. and Chir. Soc.
 Clinch, C. H., Ealing.
 *Cogswell, A., Wandsworth.
 *Coltman, W. L., Woolwich.
 Cook, W., Croydon.
 *Coutts, H. T., Croydon.
 *Crockford, A. W., Richmond.
 Davis, J., Penge.
 Davison, C. E., Bermondsey.
 *Denne, G. E., Richmond.
 *Dinelli, H. P., Hammersmith.
 Dixon, Miss, Leyton.
 Earl, F., Wandsworth.
 *Eidmans, F., Bermondsey.
 Ellison, J. B., Leeds (Institute of Science, Art and Literature).
 *Ewing, J. C., Glasgow.
 *Faraday, J. G., Hornsey.
 Farnell, W. J. C., Wallisall.
 Fermage, P., Kimberley.
 Field, A., Brighton.
 *Frost, B. J., East Ham.
 Gabbatt, C. W., Barrow.
 Garner, E. W., Southwark.
 *Gentry, E. J., Lincoln.
 Gillespie, D. A., Westminster.
 *Gillespie, N. L., Westminster.
 *Glazier, T. W., Wandsworth.
 *Gourley, R. J., Belfast.
 *Green, T., Shoreditch.
 *Hall, S. B., Lambeth.
 Hamblyn, A. M., Eastbourne.
 *Harper, B. J., Stoke Newington.
 Harradine, F. C., Poplar.
 *Harris, W. J., Hornsey.
 Harrison, S. E., Birmingham.
 *Hatcher, S. A., West Ham.
 *Hatton, A. E., Leyton.
 *Hawkins, W. G., Fulham.
 *Henderson, Miss B. I., Aberdeen.
 Henderson, W. G., Aberdeen.
 Henley, C., Poplar.
 Henn, F., Imperial Institute.
 Hirst, L., Kensington.
 *Hobbs, H. J., Enfield.
 *Hogg, J. F., Battersea.
 Hlesley, H. B., Smethwick.
 *Ineson, R., Leeds.

- Jackson, C. P., Woolwich.
 Jenn, A., Lambeth.
 Jones, G. P., Stepney.
 *Kettle, B., Guildhall.
 King, H. J., Poplar.
 Laughton, S., Derby.
 *Law, W., Brighton.
 *Lawler, E. A., Westminster.
 Leighton, T., West Ham.
 Lellow, W. F., Stepney.
 *Lewin, P. E., Woolwich.
 Loney, R., Stepney.
 Loughed, L. F., East Ham.
 Lumsden, H. S., Aberdeen.
 McCombe, A. C., East Ham.
 *McDouall, W. B., Hammersmith.
 *McDougall, D., West Ham.
 *McDougall, O., West Ham.
 *McGill, W., Glasgow.
 *Mackenzie, W. M., Aberdeen.
 McLaren, F. W., Walthamstow.
 *Male, E., Brighton.
 *Martin, E. S., Kingston.
 *Mash, M. H. B., Croydon.
 Maule, A. C. S., Hornsey.
 Moon, Miss J. B., Leyton.
 *Moors, B. R., Portsmouth.
 *Morgan, Miss G. M., Shoreditch.
 *Moslin, A. M., Stepney.
 *Nash, A., Wandsworth.
 *Neesham, E. W., Kendal.
 *Norrie, J., Walthamstow.
 Packington, L. J., Lambeth.
 Parr, S. H., Fulham.
 *Parsons, E. H., Stepney.
 Payne, E., Poplar.
 *Peplow, W. A., Croydon.
 *Philip, A. J., Hampstead.
 *Pickard, W., Bermondsey.
 *Piper, A. C., Brighton.
 Pocock, F., Holborn.
 Polley, G. E., Westminster.
 *Poulter, H. W., Stepney.
 *Procter, W., Leeds.
 Pugsley, Miss N. L., Bristol.
 *Radcliffe, J., East Ham.
 *Rees, E. G., Westminster.
 *Rivers, J., Hampstead.
 Rix, H. J., West Ham.
 *Roach, Miss, Kimberley.
 Roberts, H. M., Walthamstow.
 Robertson, Miss J. M., Aberdeen.
 Robertson, Miss L. P., Aberdeen.
 Robertson, R., Glasgow.
 *Robinson, F., Ipswich.
 Robinson, S. C., Poplar.
 *Roebuck, G. E., Stepney.
 *Savage, E. A., Croydon.
 Sawyer, F., Leeds.
 *Seidel, F. L., Willesden Green.
 *Seward, F., Bromley, Kent.
 *Sharp, E., West Ham.
 *Sharphouse, D., Leeds.
 Sheppard, R. W., Day's Library.
 *Simmnett, W. E., Institute of Civil Engineers.
 *Smith, Miss A., Paddington.
 *Smith, H., Bishopsgate Institute.
 Smith, J., Glasgow.
 *Stevenson, R., Croydon.
 Stewart, J. D., Croydon.
 Stone, O. W., East Ham.
 *Story, T. B., Westminster.
 *Strother, G. W., Leeds.
 Sunley, W. H., Leyton.
 *Sureties, H. G., Hornsey.
 Terry, E., Woolwich.
 *Thorne, W. B., Poplar.
 *Tumath, A. J., Holborn.
 Turner, H. J., Westminster.
 Usherwood, V. B., Woolwich.
 *Verney, Sir E., Middle Claydon.
 *Waite, C. H., Kensington.
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 *Warman, A. J., Newport, Mon.
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RULES.

1. NAME.—The Association shall be called "THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION."

2. OBJECTS.—Its objects shall be to promote the social, intellectual, and professional interests of its members, by meetings of a social character, by discussions, and in such other ways as may be suggested from time to time.

3. MEMBERS.—(A) All persons engaged in library administration, other than chief librarians, shall be eligible for election. Applications shall be made in writing to the Hon. Secretary, and shall be considered at the next meeting of the Committee. (B) When a member is raised to the status of chief librarian, or leaves the profession, such person shall cease to be a member six months afterwards. (C) The Committee shall have power to elect honorary members, such members not having the right of voting. (D) The Association shall have power to expel, at an ordinary meeting, after one month's official notice of expulsion shall have been given, any member by a vote of 20% (twenty per cent.) of the total number of members of the L.A.A. (or the affiliated branch to which he belongs), in favour of that course.

4. SUBSCRIPTION.—(A) The Annual Subscription shall be 5s. for Senior, and 2s. 6d. for Junior Assistants, payable in advance on October 1st. (B) Members being 6 months in arrear with their subscriptions shall cease to belong to the Association.

5. OFFICERS.—(A) The Officers of the Association shall consist of a Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, and a Committee of ten London and ten non-London members, who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. (B) In the event of any of these offices falling vacant, the vacancy shall be filled at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Association.

6. MEETINGS.—(A) There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Association fixed to take place some time during the Summer session. (B) Ordinary meetings shall be held monthly from October to May at such times and places as shall be decided by the Committee. (C) Special General Meetings shall be called on the requisition of twenty members of the Association, such meeting to be held within six weeks from the date of receipt of such requisition by the Hon. Secretary.

7. BRANCHES.—Application for the formation of a branch shall be made in writing to the L.A.A. Committee, by not less than 10 members in the proposed district.

Each branch shall be bound by the Rules of the Association, but may formulate special rules for its local government, providing the same are confirmed by the Committee of the L.A.A. All proposed local rules must be deposited with the Hon. Secretary,

of the Branches' Sub-Committee for approval. Members of a branch shall pay their subscriptions to the treasurer of the branch, who shall remit to the treasurer of the L.A.A. for every Senior Member 3/6, and for every Junior Member 2 -, to cover the cost of the official publications.

8. PROCEDURE.—(A) Amendments to these rules shall only be considered at the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose.

NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

MAY MEETING.

This meeting was held in the Blackley Library and Institute on Wednesday, the 21st inst., when Mr. Swann occupied the chair.

The Blackley Library is the latest addition to the Manchester Branch Libraries, and is worthy of a better attendance than Wednesday's. Mr. H. Bradbury (Librarian in charge) conducted the members, on arrival, round the Book-store, Boys' Reading Room, and the Gymnasium, Boys' and Girls' Recreation Rooms, Public Hall and Committee Room of the Institute adjoining the Library. In the latter room the meeting was held, when the chapter on Public Libraries in Zueblin's "American Municipal Progress" was read and discussed.

The author in his chapter points out the many sides of Library Economy as practised in the States, dividing it into five headings :—(1) Reference Libraries ; (2) Circulating and Branch Libraries ; (3) Children's and School Libraries ; (4) Periodicals ; (5) Students, each of which he treats separately, dwelling very fully on Open Access ; the connection of the Schools with the Libraries ; and the Students using the Libraries, including the Training of Assistant Librarians.

JUNE AND JULY ARRANGEMENTS.

It has been decided not to hold an ordinary meeting during June, but the Committee hope to be at liberty to announce arrangements for a Picnic during the month of July, and will be pleased to receive suggestions from members as to suitable places and dates.

NOTICES.

All subscriptions are now due, and should be forwarded at once to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. G. Chambers, Public Library, Woolwich, S.E.

All matter for July Journal should be sent to the Hon. Editor before June 20th.

All other communications should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. E. Roebuck, PUBLIC LIBRARY, 236, CABLE STREET, E.

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